

# REMARKS

The objections, rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated June 4, 2003 have been carefully reviewed by the Applicants. Claims 1-172 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 19, 21, 22, 53, 54, 80-82, 87-89, 91, 94, 105, 107, 108, 139, and 166-168 are currently rejected. Claims 4, 6, 9-16, 18, 20, 23-52, 55-79, 83-86, 90, 92, 93, 95-102, 104, 106, 109-138, 141-165, and 169-172 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claim status presented here was confirmed with the Examiner in a telephone conversation on 9/3/03, as claims 17-19, 21, 81, 82, 103, 105, 107, and 108 were indeterminate with respect to the Office Action.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 19, 21, 22, 53, 54, 80-82, 87-89, 91, 94, 105, 107, 108, 139, and 166-168 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 with reference to Spindt (US 5872424), Shibata (US 6353280) and Kuroda (US 6366014) in the Office Action, and additionally Kuroda (US 6342754) per the above mentioned telephone conversation. In response, Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 19, 21, 22, 53, 54, 80-82, 87-89, 91, 94, 105, 107, 108, 139, and 166-168 have been canceled.

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Claims 4, 6, 9-16, 18, 20, 23-52, 55-79, 83-86, 90, 92, 93, 95-102, 104, 106, 109-138, 141-165, and 169-172 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 18, 23, 27, 29, 31, 40, 50, 51, 52, 55, 62, 69, 72, 75, 78, 79, 83, 84, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 103, 104, 109, 113, 117, 126, 136-138, 141, 148, 155, 158, 161, 164, 165, 169, and 170 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the respective base claim and all intervening claims. Having been amended per the requirements set forth by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 18, 23, 27, 29, 31, 40, 50, 51, 52, 55, 62, 69, 72, 75, 78, 79, 83, 84, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 103, 104, 109, 113, 117, 126, 136-138, 141, 148, 155, 158, 161, 164, 165, 169, and 170 are now in condition for allowance.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11-16, 20, 24-26, 28, 30, 32-39, 41-49, 56-61, 63-68, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 85, 86, 97-102, 106, 110-112, 114-116, 118-125, 127-135, 140, 142-147, 149-154, 156, 157, 159, 160, 162, 163, 171, and 172 are in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence from amended

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Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 18, 23, 27, 29, 31, 40, 50, 51, 52, 55, 62, 69, 72, 75, 78, 79, 83, 84, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 103, 104, 109, 113, 117, 126, 136-138, 141, 148, 155, 158, 161, 164, 165, 169, and 170.

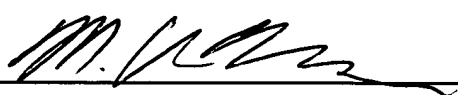
In summary, Applicants assert that Claims 4, 6, 9-16, 18, 20, 23-52, 55-79, 83-86, 90, 92, 93, 95-102, 104, 106, 109-138, 141-165 and 169-172 are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit such action by the Examiner.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Sept 4, 2003

  
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